

OKLAHOMA in TEN MINUTES!

A short play
By D. Richard Tucker

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Time: A sunny day in late September 1902.

Place: Laurey's farm

CAST

CURLY, M, 35 – 30 Handsome, cocky cowboy, in love with Laurey

Aunt ELLER, F, 50+, Laurey's aunt and guardian

LAUREY, F, 20-25, inlove with CURLY, but afraid to admit it

JUDD, M 25 -35, dirty, smelly farmhand. A sociopath with a crush on LAUREY

ANNIE, F, 20- 25, in love with WILL, but enjoying the attention from other men

ALI Hakim, M 25-40, peddler, interested in ANNNIE, but not in marriage

Andrew CARNES, M, 45 +, Justice of the Peace, ANNIE's father

WILL Parker, M, 20 – 30, In love with ANNIE. Not-so-bright cowboy

BUD, M, any age, a cowboy

BUCK, M, any age, a cowboy

SLIM, M, 15 - 20, a cowboy

Assorted cowboy, farmers, and women

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Lights come up in the farmyard where Aunt ELLER is churning butter. CURLY enters.

CURLY

Hey, Aunt Eller.

ELLER

What's up, Curly?

CURLY

Oh, there's a bright golden haze on the meadow.

ELLER

Ya gonna sing about it?

CURLY

Nope- don't have time. Where's Laurey? I was fixin' to ask her to the box social tonight.

Enter LAUREY.

LAUREY

And why would I want to go with you?

CURLY

'Cause I'm the handsomest man in the territory.

LAUREY

And the haughtiest, too – waitin' til the day of the box social to ask me to go.

CURLY

I thought you might want to go in a fancy rig. Maybe we'd go in a brand new wagon, a little surrey, with yellow and brown upholstery and a dashboard made of genuine leather, with eisenglass curtains and fringe on the top.

ELLER

You gonna sing about it?

CURLY

Nope – don't have time.

LAUREY

It's just as well. The box social is right here, so there's no reason to get a fancy rig anyhow.

Enter JUDD.

JUDD

Miss Laurey, will you go to the box social with me?

LAUREY looks back and forth between JUDD and CURLY, undecided, but when CURLY cracks a smile, she decides he's just too arrogant.

LAUREY

Sure, I'll go with you, Judd.

JUDD

Good.

JUDD wanders off.

CURLY

You're goin' with him? – he's smelly ...and dirty...and

LAUREY

And he asked me – unlike some cowboy I know.

CURLY

Then I guess I'll have to ask someone else. Whatta ya say, Aunt Eller?

ELLER

Sure thing, handsome.

LAUREY exits in a huff, just as WILL Parker enters.

WILL

Hey, ya'll, I just got back from Kansas City – saw a lot of crazy things.

ELLER

You gonna sing about it?

WILL

Nope, don't have time. I gotta find, Annie. Her daddy said if I had fifty dollars, I could marry her, And I won fifty dollars in the rodeo.

ELLER

Watch out, Annie's been hanging around that Peddlar man.

WILL

What?

ELLER

You know Annie – she just can't say no.

WILL exits, furious. ELLER, amused,
follows. ALI Hakim enters.

ALI

Help me, there's a crazy man chasin' me.

ALI hides behind Curly as Andrew
CARNES enters with a shotgun. ANNIE
follows him.

CARNES

Where is he?

CURLY points him out to CARNES, who
pokes him with the shotgun.

CARNES (cont'd)

Are you gonna marry my daughter Annie, or ain't ya?

ALI

Look, Mr. Carnes-
(as the shotgun gets closer to his nose)
I'd be more than happy to.

CARNES

Great. I knew you were a smart fella.

CARNES exits with CURLY.

ANNIE

(hugs ALI)
Thanks, Pa. That's great news Ali, we're getting married.

ALI

Yes, great news.

LAUREY enters, distressed.

ANNIE

Laurey, me and the peddler man are getting' married!

LAUREY

Annie, I just had the most god-awful dream. I dreamed that I went to box social with Judd and when he saw Curly there he turned mean and wicked and grew horns.

ANNIE

Really?

LAUREY

And then he picked up Curly and broke him in two and then he dragged me back to his dirty shack and threw me on the floor and ripped off all my clothes.

ANNIE

And then what happened?

LAUREY

I don't know – I woke up.

ANNIE

Shoot! Just when you was getting to the good part.

LAUREY

What do you think it means?

ANNIE

I don't know, but

(seeing the surrey enter)

Oh, my! Look at that fancy rig!

LAUREY runs off as CURLY and ELLER enter riding a surrey with fringe on top. Following them is a crowd of cowboys, farmers, and their dates, including CARNES and JUDD.

ELLER

Time to start the biddin'. Remember, all the proceeds from these box lunches goes to build the new school house. Not only that, but you gentlemen get to eat the meal with the fine young lady who prepared it, so bid wisely.

(producing a picnic basket)

This one looks real good. I'm not allowed to say who made it, though.

ANNIE

I did!

ELLER

Well, so much for surprises. Who'll be the first to bid?

CARNES pokes ALI with his shotgun.

ALI

I bid a dollar.

(hearing CARNES cock the shotgun)

I mean two dollars

ELLER

Even better.

ALI

(feeling the shotgun on the back of his skull)

I mean ten dollars!

WILL

I bid fifty dollars!

The crowd gasps.

ELLER

SOLD! Come get your basket.

WILL pays for the basket. ANNIE joins him and they exit. ELLER picks up a basket.

ELLER

This here's the last one... I'm not sure whose it is, but I did notice that Laurey's hasn't been sold yet.

JUDD

I'll bid forty-six dollars and thirty three cents.

The crowd gasps. ELLER is concerned.

ELLER

That's an awful lot of money, Judd.

JUDD

Ever' thing I own.

ELLER

You sure you don't want to save that money?

JUDD

I'm sure.

ELLER

Anybody else wanna bid?.....Anybody?

JUDD

Go on, tell 'em it's sold.

ELLER

Going once.....going twice....

CURLY

I bid fifty dollars!

CROWD

YAY!

ELLER

Sold to Curly for fifty dollars.

JUDD

Hold it, where's your money?

CURLY

I'm good for it.

JUDD

No, you gotta pay now.

CURLY

Well,....

BUCK

(pulling out some cash)
I'll give you twenty dollars for your gun, Curly.

CURLY

(taking money and giving up gun)
Here ya go.

BUD

(handing CURLY money)
I'll give you twenty dollars for your mustang.

CURLY gives BUD his car keys.

SLIM
And I'll give you ten bucks for your collection of National Geographic magazines.

CURLY
Um...well.....all right.
(takes the money, then whispers)
You know where they are.
(to Aunt ELLER)
There ya go – fifty bucks.

Everyone cheers. JUDD runs off and
CURLY and LAUREY exit in a different
direction, as WILL and ANNIE enters.

WILL
So, Mr. Carnes, I want to marry your daughter.

CARNES
Do you have fifty dollars?

WILL
Sure do, I just bought Annie's lunch with it.

CARNES
Then you don't have it any more, do ya?

CARNES exits as WILL stands
dumbfounded.

ANNIE
Oh, Will, you are such a dumbass.

ANNIE exits, followed by the crowd.

ALI
Tough luck, eh, cowboy?

WILL
(producing a sack)
Yeah, now I ain't got nuthin' except these gifts I got for Annie for our wedding.

ALI

What gifts?

WILL

Oh just a couple things I bought in Kansas City. Ain't gonna need them now.

ALI

Let me see.

(opens bag and pulls out negligee)

That's nice – just my size, too. I'll give you fifty dollars for it.

WILL

Fifty - Are you –

ALI

Fifty dollars – that's my final offer.

WILL

Sold, mister.

ALI trades the bag for a fifty dollars and exits. WILL runs off happily. LAUREY enters, followed by JUDD.

LAUREY

Leave me alone.

JUDD

I can't help it Miss Laurey, I can't. You're all I think about. At night, when there's a moon in my window and the shadow of the tree starts a dancin' on the wall, I start dreamin'. All the things that I wished fer turn out just like I wanted, and I'm better than a smart mouth cowboy, and you're there and you're not afraid of me, and I hold you close and your long golden hair brushes against my face like the rain in a storm.

LAUREY

Really? Are you gonna sing about it?

JUDD

Well, no.

LAUREY

It's all right – we have time.

JUDD

It's not that – I can't sing.

LAUREY

Then you're fired! Get off my property you no good, non-singing farm hand! Scoot!

JUDD

You're gonna be sorry!

JUDD runs off and CURLY enters.
LAUREY falls into CURLY's arms.

CURLY

What's wrong?

LAUREY

Oh, Judd was here, and he scared me. Curly, please sing to me.

CURLY

Can't do it – no time. Laurey, I wanna marry you. I sold my horse, so I can't be a cowboy any more, so I think we should start a family and raise crops and stuff like that.

LAUREY

Oh, Curly.

The crowd enters, including ANNIE and
WILL.

ANNIE

Hey, Laurey, me and Will are getting' married!

ELLER

Not now, Annie, so are Curly and Laurey.

CARNES

Hip hip-

CROWD

HOORAY!

JUDD enters, brandishing a chainsaw.

JUDD

Just a cotton pickin' minute.

JUDD swings the chainsaw around menacingly, then lunges at CURLY, who dodges him. JUDD's momentum carries him off stage and we hear a scream and

from off stage, blood splatters on the three cowboys closest to his exit.

ELLER

Well, that's taken care of.

CARNES

Not so fast. That man was murdered.

ELLER

No he wasn't, Andrew.

CARNES

I see a dead man, and as Justice of the Peace, I must take action.

ELLER grabs CARNES ear and twists.

CARNES (cont'd)

(in pain)
And I hereby rule "self defense."

ELLER

(to CURLY)
I guess you're free to go.

The crowd cheers as the surrey enters and LAUREY and CURLY get in. Just as they're about to exit, ELLER stops them.

ELLER

Hold it! Shouldn't we sing a song or somethin'?

CARNES

Can't do it – not enough time.

The surrey exits as the lights fade out.

END of PLAY